

**Claims**

1. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process, the apparatus  
5 comprising a rules database including at least one process rule for at least one process step, and a process analyser for determining whether a process step complies with the at least one process rule of the rules database and deriving a result based on the  
10 determination of whether the business process step complies with the at least one process rule.
2. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to  
15 claim 1, in which at least one process step is associated with at least one predetermined process rule.
3. An apparatus for analysing an electronic  
20 representation of a business process according to claim 2, in which the rules database comprises data of a process step that will satisfy a predetermined process rule.
- 25 4. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 1, in which the rules database comprises a plurality of process rules and the process analyser is configured to determine whether a process step  
30 complies with all applicable process rules.
5. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to

claim 4, in which the rules database comprises a plurality of process rules for a plurality of process steps.

- 5 6. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 1, in which the apparatus further comprises a reporter for reporting the result of the process analyser.
- 10 7. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 6, further including a digital file for generating the report.
- 15 8. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 6 further including a printer for printing.
- 20 9. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 1, in which the apparatus further comprises a process modifier for modifying a process step of the electronic representation of the business process to
- 25 comply with at least one process rule of the rules database when it is determined by the process analyser that a rule is not complied with.
- 30 10. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 9, in which the rules database comprises a process modification database including a

predetermined process modification for compliance with a given process rule.

- 5 11. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 1, in which the rules database includes a process accountability rule.
- 10 12. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 11, wherein the rules database is arranged to specify that a given process step shall include a digital signature.
- 15 13. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 11, wherein the rules database is arranged to specify that a given process step shall include a time stamp operation.
- 20 14. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 7 wherein the rules database includes a process non-repudiation rule.
- 25 15. An apparatus for analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 14, wherein the rules database is arranged to specify that a given process step including a digital signature shall include a verification of the digital signature.
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16. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process, the method comprising the steps of accessing a rules database including at least one process rule for at least one process step and  
5 determining whether a process step complies with at least one process rule of the rules database and deriving a result based on the determination of whether the at least one process step complies with the at least one process rule.
- 10 17. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 16, in which at least one process step is associated with at least one predetermined process rule.
- 15 18. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 17, in which the rules database comprises data of a process step that will satisfy a predetermined process rule.
- 20 19. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 16, in which the rules database comprises a plurality of process rules and the method further comprises the step of  
25 determining whether the at least one business process step complies with all applicable process rules, and deriving a result based on said determination.
- 30 20. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 19, in which the rules database comprises a plurality of process rules for a plurality of process steps.

21. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 16, in which the method comprises the further step of reporting the result of the process analyser.
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22. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 21, in which the result is generated as a digital file.
- 10 23. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 21, in which the result is printed.
- 15 24. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 16, wherein the method further comprises the step of modifying a process step of the electronic representation of the business process to comply with the rules database.
- 20 25. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 24, wherein the rules database comprises a predetermined process modification for compliance with a given rule.
- 25 26. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 16 wherein the rules database includes a process accountability rule.
- 30 27. A method of analysing an electronic representation of a business process according to claim 26, wherein the rules database specifies that a given process step shall include a digital signature.

28. A method of analysing an electronic representation of  
a business process according to claim 26, wherein the  
rules database specifies that a given process step  
5 shall include a time stamp operation.
29. A method of analysing an electronic representation of  
a business process according to claim 16, wherein the  
rules database includes a process non-repudiation  
10 rule.
30. A method of analysing an electronic representation of  
a business process according to claim 29, wherein the  
rules database specifies that a transaction type  
15 including a digital signature shall include a  
verification of the digital signature.
31. A storage device storing a program for causing a  
computer for to carry out the method of claim 16.